

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Problem Gambling Awareness Week Starts Today
Announcement Tomorrow: New Free Treatment for Problem Gamblers
Available Statewide

WHO: The California Office of Problem Gambling (OPG), a division of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs...

WHAT: ...will announce the launch of a new, statewide outpatient gambling addiction treatment program during a training summit in Sacramento as part of ***Problem Gambling Awareness Week***. The outpatient program for problem and pathological gamblers is part of OPG's *California Problem Gambling Treatment Services Program* developed over two years in collaboration with the University of California at Los Angeles Gambling Studies Program. Now available to the public, the free service offers face-to-face evidence-based therapy provided by fully licensed therapists specially trained in gambling addiction. Funding for the program comes from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund; no State general funds are being used.

WHEN: The announcement will be made tomorrow, Tuesday, March 8, during a summit of gambling addiction treatment professionals. Media representatives are invited to attend free. More than 150 people are registered to attend the Summit. For agenda and program, go to website:
http://problemgambling.securespsites.com/ccpgwebsite/PDF/PG%20Summit%20Book_2011_Final.pdf

WHERE: Radisson Hotel Sacramento, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento, CA

WHY: More than a million people in California have a chronic gambling problem, which leads to devastating financial and emotional consequences. Gambling losses affect the fiscal, as well as the physical health of gamblers and their families with ripple effects permeating through friendships, work relationships and entire communities.

Background on OPG:

In 2003, the California Welfare & Institutions Code established the Office of Problem Gambling as a division of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and mandated that it provide a statewide plan, prevention services, a program to support treatment services, a toll-free 24-hour telephone help-line, research and public awareness campaigns for the residents of California. OPG's prevention and treatment programs focus on reducing the prevalence of problem and pathological gambling in the state.

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